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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,990	04/17/2006	Naru Usukura	0033-1077PUS1	5537
2292 7590 03/12/2009 BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				
EXAMINER HUGHES, JAMES P				
ART UNIT 2883		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 03/12/2009		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/575,990

Applicant(s)

USUKURA ET AL.

Examiner

JAMES P. HUGHES

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-8, drawn to a circularly polarizing plate comprising a linearly polarizing plate (2,4,38) having an absorption axis forming an angle of about 45° with respect to a lagging axis of said $[\lambda/4]$ phase difference plate (1,3,37).

Group II, claim(s) 9-11, drawn to a circularly polarizing plate comprising said $[\lambda/4]$ phase difference plate (101,137) has a lagging axis forming an angle of about $+90^\circ$ with respect to a reference direction parallel to one side of said rectangular form.

Group III, claim(s) 12-13, drawn to a circularly polarizing plate comprising said $[\lambda/4]$ phase difference plate (107) has a lagging axis forming an angle of about $+90^\circ$ with respect to a reference direction defined by a longitudinal direction.

Group IV, claim(s) 14-18, drawn to a method of manufacturing a circularly polarizing plate comprising said adhering step uses said $[\lambda/4]$ phase difference plate (5,7) having a lagging axis forming an angle of about $+80^\circ$ with respect to a reference direction defined by a longitudinal direction.

Group V, claim(s) 19-20, drawn to a method of manufacturing a vertical alignment type of liquid crystal display panel comprising a circularly polarizing plate adhering step of adhering a circularly polarizing plate (15) to a main surface of a large liquid crystal display unit base (11); uses the circularly polarizing plate (15) manufactured by the manufacturing method according to claim 14.

Group VI, claim(s) 21-25, drawn to a method of manufacturing a circularly polarizing plate comprising said adhering step uses said $[\lambda/4]$ phase difference plate (5,7) having a lagging axis forming an angle of about $+25^\circ$ with respect to a reference direction defined by a longitudinal direction.

Group VII, claim(s) 26-27, drawn to a method of manufacturing a vertical alignment type of liquid crystal display panel comprising a circularly polarizing plate adhering step of adhering a circularly polarizing plate (15) to a main surface of a large liquid crystal display unit base (11); uses the circularly polarizing plate (15) manufactured by the manufacturing method according to claim 21.

Group VIII, claim(s) 28-32, drawn to a method of manufacturing a circularly polarizing plate comprising: an said adhering step uses said $[\lambda]/4$ phase difference plate (107) taking a rolled form; said adhering step uses said $[\lambda]/4$ phase difference plate (107) having a lagging axis forming an angle of about $+ 80^\circ$ with respect to said longitudinal direction.

Group IX, claim(s) 33-34, drawn to a method of manufacturing a vertical alignment type of liquid crystal display panel comprising a circularly polarizing plate adhering step of adhering a circularly polarizing plate (15) to a main surface of a large liquid crystal display unit base (11); uses the circularly polarizing plate (15) manufactured by the manufacturing method according to claim 28.

The inventions listed as Groups I - IX do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Each group does not require the special technical feature of a $[\lambda]/4$ phase difference plate (101,137) has a lagging axis forming an angle of about $+ 90^\circ$ with respect to a reference direction parallel to one side of said rectangular form.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES P. HUGHES whose telephone number is (571)272-2474. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on 571-272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James P. Hughes/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2883